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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference H 3296 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP98/06475	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 13 October 1998 (13.10.98)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 20 February 1998 (20.02.98)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C11D 17/00, 1/825		
Applicant HENKEL KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT AUF AKTIEN		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>

Date of submission of the demand 03 March 1999 (03.03.99)	Date of completion of this report 30 November 1999 (30.11.1999)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 1-33, as originally filed,
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 1-14, as originally filed,
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____, as originally filed,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Of the documents cited in the international search report, the following is considered as relevant:

D1: DE 195 09 752 (HENKEL KGAA)

Novelty, PCT Article 33(2)

D1 describes solid detergents, which may be in the form of granules or tablets and contain anionic surfactants, builder substances and non-ionic surfactants. The significant feature therein is that the non-ionic surfactants consist of more than 50% fatty acid alkyl ester alkyloxylates (FAEAOs). In a preferred embodiment, alkylpolyglycosides (APGs) and /or polyhydroxy fatty acid amides (PHFAs) are used together with FAEAOs in a ratio of APGs/PHFAs of between 1:1 and 1: 9.

Furthermore, alkoxyated alcohols are also cited in the application as a further possible additive to the FAEAOs. However, the examples do not contain either APGs/PHFAs or alkylated alcohols.

The subject matter of the present application, as defined in claim 1, can therefore be considered as novel.

Inventive step, PCT Article 33(3)

The problem addressed by the present invention is to

produce shaped bodies of detergent, which contain alkoxylated alcohols (non-ionic surfactants) and still have excellent disintegration properties. The problem is solved by using the alkoxylated alcohols with the APGs and /or PHFAs in a very specific ratio (1:10 to 10:1).

The applicants were able to show in comparative experiments that the tablets as per the present application, notwithstanding their increased hardness, showed better disintegration properties than tablets with the same chemical composition (and also the same quantities) which merely did not have the desired ratio.

The present application thus contributes to the state of the art in a way that is not disclosed in the prior art, even in D1, as a preferred embodiment thereof dispenses with the use of ethoxylated alcohols. An inventive step can consequently be acknowledged.

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. It is clear from page 4 (middle) and page 9 (third line from the bottom) of the description, that, in claim 1, the lower quantity limit (1%) has been omitted for component b).
2. The word "glucamides" is used in two different contexts: 1) as a generic term and 2) for a specific class of substances. Although this is mentioned in the description, it does lead to a lack of clarity, as it is not possible to ascertain precisely which definition is intended in each case. This is particularly true of claims 3 and 4.